

LEARNING COMMONS

Background

The Learning Commons is an inclusive, flexible learning-centered, physical and virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning. Acquiring and applying information literacy skills and using literature as a support to educational programs are essential to students becoming effective learners. To develop and use these skills in their learning, students shall experience a library and technology-based information skill development program and have access to and use a wide variety of learning resources. These resources may be housed within the Learning Commons and/or accessed through technology.

For reasons of efficiency, Learning Commons materials and resources are to be administered centrally through Learning Commons programs and the Interactive Media Commons (IMC). The Division will fund Learning Commons programs through school budget allocations and an annual allotment for the IMC.

Principals and the Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services are responsible for the administration of this administrative procedure.

Procedures

1. The instructional program of the Learning Commons and its resources must help students achieve the outcomes for learning as specified in the Program of Studies.
2. The Principal is responsible for ensuring that:
 - 2.1 The Learning Commons program is central to the instructional philosophy and curricular program of the schools, all staff should understand the purpose of the Learning Commons and how it can support the achievement of competencies and engaged student learning;
 - 2.2 The Learning Commons program is adequately funded through the school's mini-budget;
 - 2.3 The Learning Commons program and library facility are competently administered;
 - 2.4 The purchase of resources and materials involve the certificated staff of the school according to Administrative Procedure 251 – *Selection of Authorized Learning Resources*;
 - 2.5 The Learning Commons resources meet the curricular needs of the school and are built through a recognized planning system for school resource collections;
 - 2.6 The resource and material collection is reviewed regularly for dated materials and materials no longer relevant or appropriate to the curriculum should be discarded;
 - 2.7 The inventory and resources of the Learning Commons are regularly updated

3. The Principal or designate shall be responsible for the instructional program of the Learning Commons.
4. Staffing in Learning Commons will be in accordance with Administrative Procedure 505 – *Instructional Support Staff Allocations*.
5. Research and material purchases will be guided by the selection criteria specified in Administrative Procedure 251 – *Selection of Authorized Learning Resources*.

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Guidelines